

School Officials Await Results Of Salk Vaccine Tests on April 1

A "hush-hush" project, aimed at immunizing a large group of school children against poliomyelitis if vaccine experiments are proved successful, was developed today by Los Angeles public health officials.

An official veil of semi-secrecy has been thrown over the planned immunization program.

Public health officials feel that premature publicity might raise hopes that could prove to be false.

The program hinges solely on a scientific report expected to be released April 1.

On that day the final result of salk vaccine experiments, conducted in 44 states last year with 4,400,000 children participating, are scheduled to be released by scientists who are winding up the monumental task at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health.

If the report is a dismal one, the project will be dropped in Los Angeles. If scientists flash the go-ahead signal, Los Angeles will start immunizations April 18. Other cities will follow.

School Superintendent J. H. Hull said that Torrance has not been contacted about the immunizations, but said they would be considered if tests were successful.

A preview of the plan, presented to the city's health commission by Dr. John M. Chapman, of North Hollywood, medical director of the Los Angeles Health Department, who is planning the project without publicity revealed that:

More than 80,000 first and second grade pupils in the city's public, parochial and private schools will be eligible to take the shots, with the approval of their parents.

Forty doctor-nurse teams will be pressed into service to administer three salk vaccine shots over a period of five weeks. Other medical services may be temporarily curtailed.

A tentative order for 54,500 needles has been placed. Los Angeles will be allocated at least 240,000 cubic centimeters of the salk vaccine.

When more vaccine is made available, the immunization program will be expanded to include older children. Vaccine for private physicians will also be made available.

The City Health Commission approved the provisional plans and assured Dr. Chapman that he can depend on their support.

NOW IN WYOMING . . . John J. Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Hunt, of 1924 Arlington Ave., is now stationed at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., where he is receiving training as an administrative specialist. He recently spent 10 days at home after completing basic training. He enlisted Nov. 2, 1954.

CD Head Says Wardens for Alert Needed

Howard Earl, county director of Civil Defense, Friday urged residents of each block in unincorporated county territory to meet and elect a Civil Defense warden promptly.

"We simply do not have the staff to go out and seek out persons for block wardens," he said, "as essential as they are to civil defense under atomic warfare."

"The county has under 5000 wardens," he said, "and should have more than 40,000 block wardens. Furthermore, most of the wardens now enrolled are away from home at work in the daytime when it is most likely a bomb attack would come."

"Each block needs a daytime warden, one who can help his (or her) neighbors upon a yellow alert. When there's long enough warning to undertake dispersal before the bomb drops, this will be doubly important."

Earl pointed out that selection of wardens by block residents themselves not only will assure trust leadership for each block in an emergency, but is now the only practical way to provide all citizens in the county with reliable civil defense service close at hand.

Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of block wardens selected by their neighbors should be forwarded to the County Civil Defense Headquarters, at 1320 East Main North, in order that a wide training can be carried out at an early date.

SURVEY SHOWS

Modern English Students Read More, Shorter Literary Works

High school English classes spend much less time than their parents did with classics like "Silas Marner" and "Julius Caesar," their examinations tend to be shorter—but more frequent, and they write fewer "theses"—but more letters.

These are some of James E. Day's findings in his survey of "The Teaching of English in Iowa High Schools." Day, a member of the El Camino College faculty, is a graduate student at the University of Iowa, and was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree in education at mid-year commencement exercises last month.

Regardless of the assertions of some critics of modern education who maintain that "fads" have replaced sound instructional methods, modern pupils are taught spelling, English grammar, and composition. One out of five English teachers interviewed devoted some class time to direct instruction in spelling. The remainder checked spelling in connection with written work, he notes.

Day interviewed 98 teachers in 83 high schools of varying sizes in eastern Iowa. He also observed 88 different classes in his survey of what is being taught and how it is taught. He concluded that the content and organization of English courses is largely determined by the basic textbook used, with two-thirds of the teachers instructing literature from a single basic anthology.

This reliance on the book is especially true of the smaller schools, he observes, with teachers of larger schools tending to plan more independently of their textbooks.

Three publishing companies supply 78 per cent of the literature texts used in the schools Day visited, and two companies supply 78 per cent of the language texts. Modern literature anthologies, he however, give student some 70 or more selections to read, whereas earlier generations of students were likely to concentrate on five or six classics during the year, Day reports.

Thus, the contemporary book reading selections have to make up for such shortages of library facilities as often exist in many smaller schools and given considerable assistance to the average teacher, who may be overloaded with classes in addition to averaging three extra-curricular activities apiece, he points out.

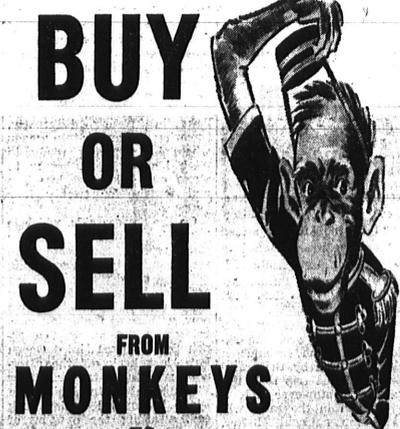
Approximately three-fourths of the teachers made some use of audio-visual devices, with 60 per cent using film projectors, 30 per cent record players and 27 per cent employing tape or wire recorders. Only 17 per cent used the bulletin board as a teaching device, partly because of lack of such space and because English teachers, unlike shop and typing teachers, often teach in several different classrooms during the day, Day says.

The long book report seems to be disappearing from the modern classroom scene, with at least one quarter of the teachers saying they use only small record cards or occasional conferences or questioning.

School Employees To Meet This Evening

The March meeting of the California School Employees will be held at the Fern Ave. Cafeteria on this evening, at eight o'clock. Among topics to be discussed will be the charity fund and a pot luck dinner to be given at the Moose Hall in about a month.

All non-certified school employees are urged to attend.



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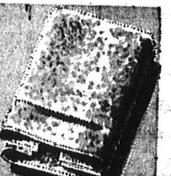
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